

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(currently amended)** A skin collagen production promoter comprising, as an active ingredient, a milk-derived basic protein fraction and/or a basic peptide fraction obtained by degradation of the milk-derived basic protein fraction with a protease, wherein said skin collagen production promoter promotes skin collagen production and improves skin wrinkling, skin sagging, skin dryness feeling or skin chapping when orally administered or topically applied to the skin.

2. **(currently amended)** A The skin collagen production promoter according to claim 1, wherein the milk-derived basic protein fraction comprises a fraction that has an amino acid composition containing 15% by weight or more of a basic amino acid.

3. **(currently amended)** A The skin collagen production promoter according to claim 1, wherein the milk-derived basic protein fraction comprises a fraction obtained by: adsorbing a basic protein by contacting milk or a milk-derived material with a cation exchange resin; and then eluting the fraction adsorbed

to the resin with an eluent having a salt concentration of 0.1 to 1 M.

4. (previously presented) A food or beverage product for promoting skin collagen production, comprising the milk-derived basic protein fraction and/or basic peptide fraction according to claim 1 incorporated therein.

5. (previously presented) A cosmetic for promoting skin collagen production, comprising the milk-derived basic protein fraction and/or basic peptide fraction according to claim 1 incorporated therein.

6. (new) The skin collagen production promoter of claim 1, wherein said milk-derived basic protein fraction or basic peptide fraction is present in an amount of 0.001 to 2% by weight on the basis of all compositions to be ingested or applied.

7. (new) The skin collagen production promoter of claim 4, wherein said milk-derived basic protein fraction or basic peptide fraction is present in an amount of 0.001 to 2% by weight on the basis of all compositions to be ingested or applied.

8. (new) The skin collagen production promoter of claim 5, wherein said milk-derived basic protein fraction or basic peptide

fraction is present in an amount of 0.001 to 2% by weight on the basis of all compositions to be ingested or applied.

9. (new) The skin collagen production promoter of claim 1, wherein said milk-derived basic protein fraction comprises the following properties:

(i) a molecular weight distribution of 3,000 to 80,000 daltons, as determined by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis;

(ii) at least 95% by weight proteins;

(iii) a basic amino acid composition comprising at least 15% basic amino acids; and

(iv) an ability to promoter skin collagen production and to improve skin wrinkling, skin sagging, skin dryness feeling or skin chapping when ingested or topically applied to the skin in an amount of at 20 mg/day.

10. (new) The skin collagen production promoter of claim 1, wherein said milk-derived basic peptide fraction comprises the following properties:

(i) a basic peptide composition having molecular weight distribution of 500 to 4,000 daltons, as determined by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis; and

(ii) an ability to promoter skin collagen production and to improve skin wrinkling, skin sagging, skin dryness feeling or

skin chapping when ingested or topically applied to the skin in an amount of at 20 mg/day.

11. (new) A method of promoting skin collagen production to treat skin wrinkling, skin sagging, skin dryness feeling and/or skin chapping, said method comprising orally administering to a subject in need thereof a pharmaceutical composition comprising the skin collagen production promoter according to claim 1, wherein said skin collagen production promoter promotes skin collagen production and thereby treats skin wrinkling, skin sagging, skin dryness feeling or skin chapping.

12. (new) A method of promoting skin collagen production to treat skin wrinkling, skin sagging, skin dryness feeling and/or skin chapping, said method comprising orally administering to a subject in need thereof the food or beverage product according to claim 4, wherein said skin collagen production promoter promotes skin collagen production and thereby treats skin wrinkling, skin sagging, skin dryness feeling or skin chapping.

13. (new) A method of promoting skin collagen production to treat skin wrinkling, skin sagging, skin dryness feeling and/or skin chapping, said method comprising topically applying to the skin of a subject in need thereof a cosmetic composition comprising the skin collagen production promoter according to

claim 5, wherein said skin collagen production promoter promotes skin collagen production and thereby treats skin wrinkling, skin sagging, skin dryness feeling or skin chapping.

14. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein said milk-derived basic protein fraction or basic peptide fraction is administered at a dosage of at least 20 mg/day.

15. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein said milk-derived basic protein fraction or basic peptide fraction is administered at a dosage of at least 20 mg/day.

16. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein said milk-derived basic protein fraction or basic peptide fraction is administered at a dosage of at least 20 mg/day.

17. (new) The skin collagen production promoter of claim 1, wherein said skin collagen production promoter has an ability to promote skin collagen production and to improve skin wrinkling, skin sagging, skin dryness feeling or skin chapping when ingested.